IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Duff et al

Serial No.: 09/037,472

Filed: March 10, 1998

For: Detecting Genetic Predisposition To Sight

Threatening Diabetic Retinopathy

aminer: Myers, Cara.

Group Art Unit: 1634

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April 29, 2003

Date of Signature and Mail Deposit

Kerry Richard

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT

Dear Madam:

In response to the Office Action mailed on October 29, 2002 in connection with the above-identified patent application, Applicants respectfully submit this Response and Amendment. Please amend the claims of the subject application as indicated herein. A Declaration/Power of Attorney executed by Gordon W. Duff is also enclosed. We are still waiting for Patrick Richardson's executed Declaration/Power of Attorney. A Petition for a three months extension of time is filed concurrently herewith.